

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed January 8, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

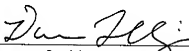
In the Office Action, the Examiner found that the Application was in condition for allowance, except for the certain informalities which are addressed below. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that this application contains allowable subject matter. Prosecution has been closed on the merits in accordance with Ex Parte Quayle, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935).

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted certain informalities in claim 1-7, 13 and 18-19. In response, claims 1-25 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as to remove the

informalities noted by the Examiner, as well as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Claims 1-25 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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